

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-11 SP-03 NSC-07 IO-14 TRSE-00

COME-00 H-03 CIEP-02 OMB-01 OIC-04 OPIC-12 CEA-02

AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 INRE-00 /120 W

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O 022055Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7147

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4895

E.OM 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MFM, AR

SUBJ: MFM WORKING GROUP ON TRANSNATIONAL ENTERPRISES: PROPOSED
REMEETING JULY 8-11

REF: A. BA 4892; B. BA 4829; C. BA 4776; D. STATE 115607

1. IN FURTHER EFFORT SECURE GOA ACTION ON DEPT'S REQUEST
CONTAINED REF A, EMBASSY CONTACTED AMB FIGUERERO WHO, AS
POINTED OUT IN REF C, IS GOA EXPERT ON THIS SUBJECT. FIGUERERO
SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO COUNTRIES MENTIONED IN REF B, HONDURAS
HAD ACCEPTED AND TRINIDAD-TOBAGO HAD TENTATIVELY ACCEPTED BUT
WAS INCONCLUSIVE ABOUT DATE. HE EMPHASIZED GOA OPPOSITION
TO SUBJECT MEETING EITHER ON JULY 8 OR WITH FOUR TO SIX WEEK
POSTPONEMENT. HE ADDED THAT GOA POSITION IS THAT MEETING
SHOULD NOT BE EARLIER THAN TWO MONTHS PRIOR TO MFM.

2. HE SAID THAT ACTING AS SECRETARIAT FOR MFM FONMIN IS PREPARED
TO CONVENE WORKING GROUP MEETING WHENEVER THIRTEEN ACCEP-
TANCES (INCLUDING US) ARE RECEIVED. HE SAID IF USG WISHED
TO WITHDRAW OR MODIFY ITS PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN AIDE MEMOIRE
OF MAY 30, MINISTRY WOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION BUT WOULD
NOT ACT ON BASIS OF INFORMAL CONVERSATION.

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3. FIGUERERO SUMMARIZED GOA OPPOSITION TO MEETING IN FOLLOW-

ING TERMS: A) THERE IS NO US PROPOSAL TO DISCUSS AT THE MEETING B) THERE IS NO TIME TO STUDY AND DISCUSS THE REPORT OF THE UN SEC GEN AND C) THERE IS NO OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN UNIFIED LA VIEW PRIOR TO MEETING. THESE FACTORS WOULD MAKE THE MEETING UNHELPFUL TO ADVANCING US-LA DIALOGUE.

4. EMBOFF WHO SPOKE TO FIGUERERO GAINED IMPRESSION THAT GOA STRATEGY MIGHT BE TO PUSH AHEAD WITH JULY 8 MEETING HOPING THAT IT WILL BE FAILURE FOR LACK OF PREPARATION, THUS JUSTIFYING GOA OPPOSITION AND ENABLING GOA TO BLAME US. WE CAN COUNTER THIS POSSIBLE STRATEGY BY SUBMITTING OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION WITHDRAWING SUGGESTION OF JULY 8-11 DATES AND SUBSTITUTING OTHERS. IF DEPT AGREES, REQUEST WE BE PROVIDED SPECIFIC ALTERNATE DATES TO SUBMIT TO FONMIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO HEAD OFF FORMAL CONVENING OF MEETING OF JULY 8.

5. IN VIEW OF FIGUERERO'S COMMENTS CONCERNING TIMING OF MEETING, EMBOFF ASKED HIM WHETHER FONMIN'S COPY OF SPANISH TEXT OF MFM COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS PHRASE "AT LEAST" (PARA 6 REF D). UPON CHECKING TEXT HE TOLD US, AS WE SUSPECTED, THAT SPANISH TEXT HE HAS BEEN WORKING FROM DOES NOT CONTAIN THOSE WORDS. FURTHERMORE, HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND HOW INSERTION OF WORDS "AT LEAST" COULD HAVE OCCURRED, OR COULD BE VALID, WITHOUT GOA APPROVAL WHICH HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN. WE BELIEVE THAT FACT WE AND GOA HAVE BEEN OPERATING ON DIFFERENT TEXTS OF COMMUNIQUE ACCOUNTS FOR MUCH OF THE DIFFICULTY THAT HAS ARISEN BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS ON THIS QUESTION.

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Message Attributes

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